

REMARKS

Claims 1-40 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 15 and 31 are amended. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representatives by Examiner Pham in the August 30, 2006 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 7, 8, 21 and 22 contain allowable subject matter. These claims are not rewritten in independent form, because it is believed that the base claims, from which they depend, are allowable as discussed below.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-6, 9-20 and 23-40 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over either U.S. Patent No. 5,681,364 to Fortune or U.S. Patent No. 3,063,216 to Silverman. Further, the Office Action rejects claims 1-6, 9-20 and 23-40 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,632,269 to Najm. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites, among other features, receiving a gas-flow through at least one of a duct and a housing containing a non-fibrous filter, placing the filter in motion and impacting particulate matter suspended within the gas-flow with the filter, as a result of placing the filter in motion, wherein upon impact the particulate matter is removed from the gas-flow.

During the August 30, 2006 personal interview with Examiner Pham, Applicants' representatives asserted, and Examiner Pham agreed, that neither Fortune, Silverman nor Najm teach, or can reasonably be considered to have suggested, such a feature.

For example, Fortune, Silverman and Najm each teach the use of filters containing fibrous filter material.

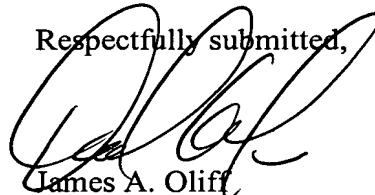
For at least this reason, neither Fortune, Silverman nor Najm can reasonably be considered to teach, or to have suggested, the combination of all of the features positively recited in claim 1. Claims 15 and 31 include features similar to those addressed above with respect to claims 1. Therefore, none of Fortune, Silverman or Najm can reasonably be considered to teach, or to have suggested, the combinations of all of the features positively recited in claims 15 or 31 for at least the same reasons addressed above with respect to claim 1. Each of claims 2-14, 16-30 and 32-40 depends from one of claims 1, 15 and 31, respectively. Therefore, none of Fortune, Silverman or Najm can reasonably be considered to teach, or to have suggested, the combinations of all of the features positively recited in claims 2-14, 16-30 or 32-40 for at least the same reasons addressed above with respect to the independent claims, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of claims 2-14, 16-30 and 32-40 recites.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-6, 9-20 and 23-40 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over either of Fortune and Silverman, and under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Najm, are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-6, 9-20 and 23-40, in addition to the indicated allowable subject matter of claims 7, 8, 21 and 22 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: September 6, 2006

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